

MICHAEL A. CARDOZO Corporation Counsel LAW DEPARTMENT

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**SO ORDERED** 

GEORGE B. DANIELS

May 21, 2007

**BY FAX** 

Honorable George B. Daniels United States District Judge Southern District of New York United States Courthouse 500 Pearl Street, Room 630 New York, NY 10007

Re:

Ossie Haith v. City of New York, et al.

07-CV-3360 (GBD)

Your Honor:

I am an attorney in the office of Michael A. Cardozo, Corporation Counsel of the City of New York, assigned to the defense of the above-referenced federal civil rights lawsuit. I respectfully write to request a sixty day enlargement of defendant City of New York's time to answer or otherwise respond to the complaint from May 21, 2007, to July 20, 2007. Plaintiff's counsel, Rose M. Weber, Esq., consents to this request.

There are several reasons for seeking an enlargement of time. In accordance with this office's obligations under Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, we need this additional time to investigate the allegations of the complaint. In this case, plaintiff alleges he was falsely arrested and assaulted by New York City police officers on June 3, 2004, and further alleges that he was subsequently maliciously prosecuted. Plaintiff Roee Bashan also alleges he was assaulted by police officers. Records of this incident may have been sealed pursuant to New York Criminal Procedure Law § 160.50. Therefore, this office is in the process of forwarding to plaintiffs' counsel for execution a consent and authorization for the release of those sealed records so that defendant can access the information, properly assess the case, and respond to the complaint. This office is also providing the plaintiff's counsel with medical authorizations to be executed by plaintiffs in order that we may assess the extent of plaintiffs' alleged physical or psychological injuries.

The extension will also enable plaintiff to complete service of process upon the individually named defendant, Police Officer Jorge Puga, if he has not already done so. Once

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service is effected, the enlargement will allow time for this office to determine, pursuant to Section 50-k of the New York General Municipal Law, and based on a review of the facts of the case, whether we may represent the individual defendants. See Mercurio v. The City of New York, et al., 758 F.2d 862, 864-65 (2d Cir. 1985) (quoting Williams v. City of New York, et al., 64 N.Y.2d 800, 486 N.Y.5.2d 918 (1985) (decision whether to represent individual defendants is made by the Corporation Counsel as set forth in state law)).

No previous request for an enlargement of time to respond to the complaint has been made. Defendants note that the Court has scheduled an initial conference for July 26, 2007, at 9:30 a.m.; thus, the requested enlargement will not delay the commencement of discovery in this matter. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that defendant City of New York's time to answer or otherwise respond to the complaint be enlarged from May 21, 2007, to July 20, 2007.

Thank you for your consideration of this request...

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan M. Smith (JS 7186) Assistant Corporation Counsel

Rose M. Weber, Esq. cc: (by fax to (212) 791-4149)